Every friend of immigration restriction should immediately request their two Senators to insist on the Burnett Immigration bill being voted on at this session of Congress.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1913, at the postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 6. NO. 4. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1916. WHOLE NO. 264.

Every friend of immigration restriction should immediately request their two Senators to insist on the Burnett Immigration bill being voted on at this session of Congress.

SAFETY ACTS TO COVER INTRASTATE BUSINESS

Washington, April 21.—The United States supreme court has ruled that the various federal safety appliance acts apply to all employees, regardless of whether they are engaged in intrastate or interstate commerce, and that employees may recover damages for injuries occurring through the failure of railroads to comply with the safety appliance laws.

The decision is regarded as a precedent maker, as it gives safety appliance laws a scope far greater than the federal employers' liability law. The first employers' liability law was even annulled years ago because it applied to employees engaged in intrastate commerce as well as those in interstate commerce.

The decision was announced in the suit of A. R. Risaby, a brakeman on the Texas and Pacific railroad, who was injured by a defective coupler. A car marked "bad order" and left standing in the Marshall (Tex.) yard for repairs. It was necessary for Risaby to take the car over the main line with the engine for repair.

Justice Pitney, speaking for the entire court, held that congress had taken the field exclusively, jurisdiction over safety appliances for interstate railroads, and that the states would not be authorized to enact laws regarding them for the benefit of state employees.

The court held all that was necessary was that the railroad be engaged in interstate commerce for the federal law to apply to all their acts regarding safety.

Judgment of the Texas courts in favor of Rigsby for $11,000 was affirmed.

GRANITE CUTTERS PROGRESS.

Quincy, Mass., April 22.—International President Duncan of the Granite Cutters' International association reports continued progress by these workers. The granite cutters' executive says:

"After several weeks of suspensions for new agreements, the granite cutters in Plainfield, N. H., and Nashua, N. H., and in Oklahoma City, Okla., have secured new agreements with substantial increases of wages. The New Hampshire settlements will be in use until May 1, 1918, and carry with them improved working conditions and an increase of wages of 75 cents per day, bringing the minimum up to $4 per day for a 44-hour work week. The change at Oklahoma City is an increase of 25 cents per day, making the minimum wage rate there up to $4.25.

"The improved conditions and increase of wages have not been accomplished by the mere passage of a motion or a resolution of the hall, but long and earnest campaigning and an especially display of solidarity among the union granite cutters, and happily in connection with our contentions no effort was made by employers to hire strikebreakers or non-union men, for both brands are not profitable assets to manufacturing industry, since industry, hence the need of the stamina, skill and productivity of union men."

TEACHERS TO FORM UNION.

Washington, April 22.—Public school teachers of the nation's capital are discussing trade unionism. In a call signed by nearly 100 of these educators, it is said:

"Every class of people in the country, including capital, labor and the profession, have put fellow-wide organizations for their protection and well-being. The teachers alone remain in an unorganized condition.

"The teachers of this country, through the molding of the political thought and the developing of the economic efficiency of each succeeding generation of citizens, could, more than any other class of people, the future of the republic, and have the least control over their own welfare.

"A nation-wide organization of teachers, consolidated for protection, would be recognized by the organized forces of capital and by labor as a body possessing unwonted power.

"Such an organization would give the teachers of the country a voice in their own affairs which they do not at present possess."

UNCLE SAM PAYS LOW WAGES.

Washington, April 21.—Hearings by the house labor committee on the Nolan bill shows that appropriations by congress have increased from $457,000,000 in 1896 to $1,114,857,000 in 1916, But during this time wages have remained the same for thousands of government employes.

The Nolan bill was introduced by Congressman Nolan, a member of the labor group, which provides that no government employe shall receive less than $3 a day. At the present time it is stated that of 30,000 government employes in Washington, 25.6 per cent earn less than $720 a year, or $2 a day. Outside of Washington 18 per cent receive less than this amount. There are 196,000 government employes outside of Washington who receive $1,000 or less per year. Of this number 30,600 get less than $720.

OVERLOOKED UNION'S POWER.

Bridgeport, Conn., April 22.—About 200 employes of workers quit on strike to enforce an eight-hour day promised them last fall when they struck to secure the nine-hour day. Most of these employes returned to work they permitted their union to lose its effectiveness. Then the eight-hour day was taken from them and the company compelled them to work 10 hours per day shift and 11½ hours nights. They are now demanding the eight-hour day and the reinstatement of the union's secretary.

LENIENT TO STRIKE GUARDS.

Chicago, April 21.—Police Magistrate Kirk of Summit treated two strike guards employed by the Corn Products Refining company at Argo in a gingerly manner when they were brought to court charged of robbing a man of $50 when searching him on the claim that he was under arrest. The guards were fined $100 and costs each, but the fines were remitted and they escaped with the payment of the court costs, $3 each.

PAINTERS REDUCE HOURS.

Grand Rapids, Mich., April 22.—After a short strike the Painters' union has gained the eight-hour day with no reduction in pay. The victory was one of the most decisive ever secured by local trade unionists.

WILL PAY TAILORS' RATES.

St. Louis, Mo., April 22.—The Retail Merchants' association has signed the wage scale of Journeymen Tailors' union No. 11.

FOES OF SEAMEN'S LAW SILENCE TIN RATTLES

New York, April 22.—The anti-seamen's law bubble has bursted and the tin pan campaign conducted by eastern opponents of this legislation has ended, if the New York World correctly interprets current thought. In a satirical editorial, that paper says:

"When the Southern Pacific sold its holdings in the Pacific Mail last August and withdrew from the Pacific coast trade, it gave as its reason the impossibility of operating under the new seamen's act. It managed to time the change of policy in such a way as to get a big price for its steamships and to furnish a sensational climax to a campaign engineered to influence the action of congress. The whole country was loudly called on to witness the dying agonies of the American merchant marine and the final disappearance of the American flag from the Pacific.

"The seamen's act is still in force. Evidently it is not the danger to the Southern Pacific to convince the public that the Pacific would be forever closed to American steamships. Nevertheless the Pacific Mail Steamship company has stepped into the place vacated by the Southern Pacific and announced that it will re-establish the service between San Francisco and the Orient. It refuses to be warned by the danger that befalled the old Southern Pacific line with which it has recently occupied with plans to gather in profits in a neglected field.

"We have decided,' says General Manager J. H. Rossetter, 'that there is an opportunity for the restoration of American flag ships in this line. If we find that we can compete with the cheaper-manned steamers of the Japanese line, we shall eventually have a big fleet operating.'

"It is regrettable that any American shipping concern should raise doubt about the Southern Pacific's business judgment or the sincerity of the reasons assigned for the sale of its fleet. But the prospects of making money in the trans-Pacific trade are too good to be refused by men who do not mix politics with the shipping business."

FRAUDS IN JUSTICE SHOPS

Toledo, Ohio, April 22.—State and county authorities are investigating alleged methods of extortion practiced by collection agencies, and a grand jury will probably be impanelled to consider the matter. It is stated that 15 collection agencies and four justices of the peace are involved. Investigators declare that an average of 500 wage garnishment cases are started against workingmen in the city each month. Of this number 90 per cent of these claims have been found to be illigitimate. Imposing fictitious court proceedings, including the use of seals and starting suits where there is no legal or just claim are some of the many methods used in taking advantage of the carelessness and ignorance of the victims. The average claim for which a citizen where a woman was sued for 28 cents. She settled with the collection agency and was forced to pay more than $6 in costs.

These justices of the peace are elected in townships in the counties outside of that in Toledo, and compel workers to travel to their "court room" in the country. For years the state federation of labor has attempted to limit the jurisdiction of these petty judges.

COSSACK BILL PASSED.

Albany, N. Y., April 22.—A bill providing for a state constabulary, known as cossacks, has passed the state senate. It provides for two troops, 116 men and officers in each troop, at a proposition of $250,000. This force will replace the national guard in the state service and will be subject to the call of the governor, of sheriffs, of supreme court justices or county judges. The bill was strongly opposed by the trade union movement. The organized workingmen of the state feel that in communities where the cossacks exist, and the absence of violence in many large New York strikes, to disprove the claims of constabulary advocates.

HIGHER WAGES FOR MINERS.

Clearfield, Pa., April 22.—Bituminous coal operators of district No. 2 have signed an agreement with the United Mine Workers' union after conferences lasting nearly a month. The operators accept the check-off system for both miners and laborers and substantial wage increases have been secured for all classes of workers in and around the mines. The contract is to continue for two years. About 50,000 employes are affected. This district is separate from the bituminous section of the western end of the state, which included in the central competitive district. The wage scale of the latter was settled several days ago.

INCREASES AT FALL RIVER.

Fall River, Mass., April 22.—The New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad offered its clerks a 5 per cent wage increase. These clerks receive $2 per day. This number 30,600 get less than $720.

OVERLOOKED UNION'S POWER.

Bridgeport, Conn., April 22.—About 200 employes of workers quit on strike to enforce an eight-hour day promised them last fall when they struck to secure the nine-hour day. Most of these employes returned to work they permitted their union to lose its effectiveness. Then the eight-hour day was taken from them and the company compelled them to work 10 hours per day shift and 11½ hours nights. They are now demanding the eight-hour day and the reinstatement of the union's secretary.

LENIENT TO STRIKE GUARDS.

Chicago, April 21.—Police Magistrate Kirk of Summit treated two strike guards employed by the Corn Products Refining company at Argo in a gingerly manner when they were brought to court charged of robbing a man of $50 when searching him on the claim that he was under arrest. The guards were fined $100 and costs each, but the fines were remitted and they escaped with the payment of the court costs, $3 each.

PAINTERS REDUCE HOURS.

Grand Rapids, Mich., April 22.—After a short strike the Painters' union has gained the eight-hour day with no reduction in pay. The victory was one of the most decisive ever secured by local trade unionists.

WILL PAY TAILORS' RATES.

St. Louis, Mo., April 22.—The Retail Merchants' association has signed the wage scale of Journeymen Tailors' union No. 11.

BENEVOLENCE FAILS IN STETSON PLANT

Indianapolis, Ind., April 22.—Under the caption "Where Benevolence Falls Down," the United Mine Workers' Journal says:

"The strike in the John B. Stetson hat factory is not receiving much publicity. This company is powerful enough to demand that newspapers smother any allusion to the strike, and as a consequence it is getting unusually scarce also to the labor press that the fact of the strike has become known.

"The John B. Stetson company claims to hold a benevolent interest in the welfare of its employes. True, it does not pay wages as high as the union concerns, but the employes are encouraged to lead a moral life. The conduct of the workers outside of the factory is also claimed as the interest of the employer.

"Also, this factory has constituted a 'board of conciliation,' consisting of the representatives of the management, and of the employes, but no interference by labor unions is tolerated.

"Until lately they had no trouble on this conciliation board. The management would express the wish of the company, the employes' representatives sometimes voiced the hope of the new regime, and they compromised on 'the wishes of the company.'

"Happened that one Edward McPeak was elected, or appointed, as one of the conciliators, and he actually thought he could represent the men, the employes for those he was supposed to represent. He knew better instantly. They came the strike.

"The point we would make is—that there can be no real collective relationship between employers and employes when the former are possessed of all the economic power; while the latter are prevented by the employers from banding themselves with an organization that would give them power to press any demands they might make.

"Collective bargaining is impossible with all the power on one side. Benevolence always balks at sharing power."

TEACHERS SEE THE LIGHT.

Washington, April 22.—The Times of this city makes the following comment on the increasing sentiment in favor of trade unionism by Washington public school teachers:

"The rapid and general crystallization of sentiment among federal and district employes to organize unions to further their demands for increased pay and for pensions is nowhere better illustrated than in the call sent forth yesterday for a gathering of high school teachers to form a union.

"Less than six months ago teachers of the city had no more thought of the matter of union organization, and there were only a few scattered votes for a labor union, should the thing have happened. The government clerks have awakened to the need of a union, and the School Janitors' union has been active in its demands for increased pay for the heavier duties imposed by the wider use of schools.

"The same bugaboo that for a long time hampered the government clerks has handicapped the formation of teachers' union. Both held to the theory that their jobs are professional, and that there was a loss of dignity in allying themselves with the ranks of union labor. Both are getting by the fact that they are salaried employes."

POVERTY AND TUBERCULOSIS.

New Orleans, April 22.—"As long as there is poverty there will be tuberculosis," said Surgeon R. H. Creel of the United States public health service in an address before the sanitological congress. The speaker prescribed plenty of sunshine, ventilation, open space and cleanliness as the best preventive and treatment for many ailments which have augmented the south's death rate."

Dr. Mary Gray of Raleigh told delegates representing the medical profession that if the $2,000,000 expended each year for the care of the feeble minded in intelligently in prevention and education thousands of persons would be saved from this affliction.

"When blindness once is established," he said, "it is incurable, but if proper preventative measures are taken the number of sightless persons will be reduced to a surprising extent. Every lighted schoolrooms and homes contribute largely to the recruiting of the sightless army."

RAILROADS ADVERTISING.

Scranton, Pa., April 22.—"Nationwide Railroad Strike" is the lurid heading in the advertisement being posted by railroads in this section as part of their campaign against the eight-hour demands of railroad employes. The public is assured it has an interest in the workers' demands, as a successful strike would involve additional charges of between $75,000,000 and $100,000,000, which the people, of course, would have to pay.

The advertisement makes no comment on the railroad employes' claim that now the average speed of freight trains is one mile an hour and if the average is increased the demands could be granted and quicker freight service assured business men.

RAILROAD'S INCOME LARGE.

New York, April 22.—The annual report of the New York Central Railroad company shows a consolidated income, dividends of $27,711,472, or 11 per cent on the $249,711,472 of stock, as against 8.7 per cent in 1914. Freight revenue for the year increased $14,136,000, and operating expenses, despite this greatly increased business, increased $6,000,000.

The report includes the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern and nine smaller roads.

WANT IRON MOLDERS ENJOINED.

Philadelphia, April 22.—The American Engineering company discriminated against workers in the molders' and coremakers' union, was called by this organization after the management refused to discuss the matter with union representatives. The company now finds it is losing $6,000 a month because of the strike and has asked for an injunction to restrain the union officials from interfering with the non-union employes. The injunction will be opposed on the ground that the case is one for arbitration and that the company is not entitled to the aid of the courts because it refused to arbitrate. The company's request for an injunction is another awe-inspiring kind preferred.

ORGANIZE; RAISE WAGES.

Jackson, Cal., April 22.—Brewery workers have organized and secured contracts with employers which carries wage increases ranging from $2 to $5 per week. Hours and working conditions are regulated.

METAL WORKERS MAKE GAINS.

Joplin, Mo., April 22.—Machinists and iron molders have won strikes for improved conditions. In both cases wages were increased to $4.25 for a nine-hour day.

DIVIDEND R. R. STOCK LARGE

Cleveland, April 22.—The four railroad brotherhoods have issued a statement refuting the claim of railroads that the eight-hour day in the freight service is impossible because "35 per cent of all railway stock pays no dividends."

The employes say:

"There has been a gradual increase in the per cent of dividend paying stock since 1897 and this in spite of the fact that there has been a large increase in the amount of stock issued, much of which represented no capital investment whatever, but was issued to pay bonuses, commissions, etc., given to such financial manipulators as operated the New Haven, Frisco and Rock Island deals.

"It should be remembered that in the total amount of railroad stock outstanding there is considerable that is not expected to pay dividends, such as switching lines, belt line transfers, etc., which are constructed only to facilitate the handling of traffic in and around terminals.

"Thus, a more detailed examination of the official statistics of the interstate commerce commission, as regards the dividend and bonus paying stock of the railways of the United States does not give the impression that the management is so much overpaid for investment are so desirous of instilling into the public mind.

"Thus, that 35 per cent of the railway stock paid no dividend in 1914 does not, in the slightest degree, indicate that the stockholders of these railways has not fared well with his investment. On the contrary, it has been accurately proven that the condition of this stockholder has considerably improved over that of the wage worker.

"As conclusively shown in statements previously issued by the interstate commerce commission, the actual stockholder in American railways is the railroad corporation itself, and not the widows and orphans, as the railroads would have would try to have us believe owns the stock of the railroads of this country."

SEAMEN DEMAND MORE.

New York, April 22.—The Atlantic district of the International Seamen's union has prepared the following wage scale, which is being circulated in English, German, Spanish and Greek:

Boatswains, $55 a month; men with cable seamen rating, $45 a month; experience to obtain certificates, $45 a month; oilers and watertenders, $50; firemen, $45; coal passers and wipers, $40. In vessels going to the war zone a 25 per cent bonus, additional to wages. Overtime to be paid for every nine-hour workday in port at the rate of 40 cents an hour for shipwork and 50 cents an hour for dockwork.

These rates apply to all vessels, steam or sail, irrespective of nationality, that sign men in ports on the Atlantic and gulf coasts.

Foreign vessels have been paying these rates for the past month, and this has resulted in drawing away from the Atlantic coast trade large numbers of competent seamen.

The City or Montgomery of the Savannah, Atlanta & Gulf line was among the new rates. Other companies have followed suit, but in some cases it was necessary for seamen to refuse to work. Despite the large profits because of war influences, the owners of vessels refused to increasing wages and are attempting to alarm the seamen by citing laws relating to mutiny.

STRIKERS ENJOINED.

Bridgeport, Conn., April 22.—Judge Gager of the superior court has issued an injunction against officers of the Machinists' union of Fairfield. According to the court's order, the strikers must not picket the plants of the concerns with strikebreakers. The honorable court retains the right to be the sole judge of what constitutes interference. The workers show that if a strike did not exist, and any one of them was charged with "interference," they would be accorded a trial by jury, as provided by law. In this case, however, Judge Gager is lawmaker, law enforcer and executioner.

AIDED BY BETTER LIVING.

Boston, April 22.—Better living conditions, not pill peddlers, are the fight against tuberculosis, said Dr. S. H. Rubin of Tufts medical school, in an address last night.

"Our success in dealing with this disease," he said, "may be attributed to a modified mode of living, the great revolution of the social condition of the people, as is evidenced by more comfort, by cleanliness, better food and cleaner habits. Fewer cases are now seen in the hospitals, and the early cases are detected in the incipient stage and provided with suitable treatment."

THE PRICE OF MILK.

Chicago, April 22.—Milk companies in this city announce they will not raise the price of milk as the result of a farmers' strike, which forces the companies to pay them higher prices.

The Chicago Journal intimates that popular opinion will force down the companies if they raised prices. This paper says: "The companies can buy milk for 3.33 cents per quart—which is what producers ask—sell it for 8 cents a quart and make a profit. If they can't, the milk distributing business of this city is sadly in need of an efficiency expert."

BOOKBINDERS REUNITED.

Toronto, Ontario, April 22.—Members of a so-called national bookbinders' union have joined the bona fide organization, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. A division has existed for nearly 10 years, but these workers have agreed that the American Federation of Labor, the United States and Canada into two national camps is wrong. Prominent members of this office have assisted in smoothing out all differences.

INCREASES FOR ICE HANDLERS.

Peoria, Ill., April 22.—The Ice Handlers' union has secured a two years' union shop agreement. Wages are increased $1 per week. The agreement is a contract provides that two hours are taken off at the regular time and paid for at the rate of 40 cents an hour. This makes the wage increase $1 a week for those working nine hours a day, a 50 cent increase for the other seven months.

WHEELING PLUMBERS STRIKE.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 22.—Union plumbers are striking because their employers insist that wages shall be paid by the hour instead of the day or half day. Plumbers work irregular hours, so that when they call for plumbers and then find they are not ready to work at the time agreed upon they refuse to go the time is actually employed.

SYRACUSE MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Syracuse, N. Y., April 22.—A refusal by automobile gear-making plants to better working conditions has resulted in a strike of several thousand machinists.

SAYS PLEAS ARE HYPOCRITICAL.

San Francisco, April 22.—Editor Scharrenberg of the Coast Seamen's Journal is not impressed with the pleas of certain opponents of immigration restriction. He says:

"Many hypocritical pleas have been made in the name of freedom, liberty and 'Americanism.' But never was there a greater mockery of democracy than to the many fervent appeals made for the poor illiterate immigrants who would be barred from our shores if the immigration restriction bill, now pending in the United States senate, were enacted into law.

"Unfortunately, there is a serious conflict of opinion regarding the correct definition of the words 'freedom' and 'Americanism.' There are those who contend that 'Americanism' means an industrial democracy in which labor has the right and the opportunity to determine for itself what are fair wages and reasonable working conditions.

"To the steel trust, however, the words 'Americanism' and 'freedom' have only one meaning—it is 'freedom to exploit the workers of the world.' And, of course, neither the steel trust nor the lesser octopi of American industry desire any change in the present arrangement which enables them to exploit the workers of the world by keeping a constant and large surplus of imported ignorant pauper labor right at the gates of the various respective plants. Hence the strenuous opposition to any immigration restriction."

PURE BREAD BILL DEFEATED.

Albany, N. Y., April 22.—The state senate has repeatedly declared for "preparedness" in various military forms, but last night it defeated Senator Coffey pure bread bill which was intended to protect the public health. Debate on the bill was prolonged for much bitterness. Senator Sam Jones insisted it was a "strike measure," and Senator Walker answered him by the Hon. Mr. Jones dined and went auto riding with the head of the Ward Baking company. Senator Mills hotly declared that the bill was fostered by the yeast interests and that it became a law the Ward Baking company would be forced to discard its present supply of making bread and substitute more yeast.

The merits of the bill, of course, were lost in this maze of charges and the cause of pure bread was defeated. Senator Walker read advertisements of the bill from all the Bakers' unions of the state. He said that if the bill was not a measure to benefit the yeast sold containing plaster of paris and other ingredients injurious to health.

The Ward Baking company is one of the principal opponents of the Bakers' union.

TO UNITE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

New York, April 22.—Social workers and others interested in social activities have organized the National Social Unit Organization, which intends to "scientifically organize an experiment in uniting all social activities in some city to be later selected.

"The development of a model program for community organization, with the counsel and aid of the national experts," as the organizers of the movement have phrased it, will take the form of attempting in each individual city of the chosen city to pool the experience of the agents in various neighborhood and community activities and to work out standardized methods.

The program contemplates an expenditure of $125,000, of which $62,400 has already been subscribed, it is stated. The city to be selected is preferably one of 200,000 population.

STREET CAR MEN WIN STRIKE.

Alliance, Ohio, April 22.—The street car strike on the Stark Electric and Cleveland, Alliance and Mahoning Valley interurban and Alliance city lines has ended with motormen and conductors winning wage increases.

The new wage scale calls for these rates respectively per hour for the first and second six-month periods and after two years: Alliance city, 22, 24 and 26 cents; Stark Electric, interurban, 26, 28 and 30 cents; Cleveland, Alliance and Mahoning Valley, interurban, 24 and 26 cents.

The companies agree not to discriminate against any employe because of strike activity.

WARNS AGAINST HIGH FEES.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 22.—The workmen's compensation board has notified employers to refuse the services of ing against workmen's compensation liability that some attorneys are charging exorbitant fees or unduly large percentages of the installments paid injured workmen. The fees are approved by the board, are required by the compensation act.

To check this evil the board orders all awards paid to the claimant, regardless of their attorney, unless the attorney shall furnish the board's approval of his claim for legal expenses and services.

"MOVIE" OPERATORS GAIN.

Erie, Pa., April 22.—The Moving Picture Operators' union has signed contracts with a dozen picture houses in this city. Better working conditions have been secured.

Springfield, Ill., April 22.—With one exception every picture house in this city has signed agreements with the Moving Picture Operators' union. Wages are increased, hours reduced and better working conditions assured.

HENRY BARTER DEAD.

Detroit, Mich., April 22.—Members of Longshoremen's union, No. 1, served as pallbearers at the funeral of the late Henry C. Barter, former president of the International Longshoremen's association, who passed away in this city. Barter was the first elected secretary of the longshoremen in 1892 and held that position continuously until 1902, when he resigned. He was intimately connected with the early history of this organization.

A CURTAIN OF FIRE.

Braddock, Pa., April 22.—American industry, as well as European armies, can stage a "curtain of fire." At the Edgar Thompson steel plant a ladle of molten metal overturned, burning two workers fatally and seriously burning ten others.

DIVIDEND R. R. STOCK LARGE

Cleveland, April 22.—The four railroad brotherhoods have issued a statement refuting the claim of railroads that the eight-hour day in the freight service is impossible because "35 per cent of all railway stock pays no dividends."

The employes say:

"There has been a gradual increase in the per cent of dividend paying stock since 1897 and this in spite of the fact that there has been a large increase in the amount of stock issued, much of which represented no capital investment whatever, but was issued to pay bonuses, commissions, etc., given to such financial manipulators as operated the New Haven, Frisco and Rock Island deals.

"It should be remembered that in the total amount of railroad stock outstanding there is considerable that is not expected to pay dividends, such as switching lines, belt line transfers, etc., which are constructed only to facilitate the handling of traffic in and around terminals.

"Thus, a more detailed examination of the official statistics of the interstate commerce commission, as regards the dividend and bonus paying stock of the railways of the United States does not give the impression that the management is so much overpaid for investment are so desirous of instilling into the public mind.

"Thus, that 35 per cent of the railway stock paid no dividend in 1914 does not, in the slightest degree, indicate that the stockholders of these railways has not fared well with his investment. On the contrary, it has been accurately proven that the condition of this stockholder has considerably improved over that of the wage worker.

"As conclusively shown in statements previously issued by the interstate commerce commission, the actual stockholder in American railways is the railroad corporation itself, and not the widows and orphans, as the railroads would have would try to have us believe owns the stock of the railroads of this country."

SEAMEN DEMAND MORE.

New York, April 22.—The Atlantic district of the International Seamen's union has prepared the following wage scale, which is being circulated in English, German, Spanish and Greek:

Boatswains, $55 a month; men with cable seamen rating, $45 a month; experience to obtain certificates, $45 a month; oilers and watertenders, $50; firemen, $45; coal passers and wipers, $40. In vessels going to the war zone a 25 per cent bonus, additional to wages. Overtime to be paid for every nine-hour workday in port at the rate of 40 cents an hour for shipwork and 50 cents an hour for dockwork.

These rates apply to all vessels, steam or sail, irrespective of nationality, that sign men in ports on the Atlantic and gulf coasts.

Foreign vessels have been paying these rates for the past month, and this has resulted in drawing away from the Atlantic coast trade large numbers of competent seamen.

The City or Montgomery of the Savannah, Atlanta & Gulf line was among the new rates. Other companies have followed suit, but in some cases it was necessary for seamen to refuse to work. Despite the large profits because of war influences, the owners of vessels refused to increasing wages and are attempting to alarm the seamen by citing laws relating to mutiny.

STRIKERS ENJOINED.

Bridgeport, Conn., April 22.—Judge Gager of the superior court has issued an injunction against officers of the Machinists' union of Fairfield. According to the court's order, the strikers must not picket the plants of the concerns with strikebreakers. The honorable court retains the right to be the sole judge of what constitutes interference. The workers show that if a strike did not exist, and any one of them was charged with "interference," they would be accorded a trial by jury, as provided by law. In this case, however, Judge Gager is lawmaker, law enforcer and executioner.

AIDED BY BETTER LIVING.

Boston, April 22.—Better living conditions, not pill peddlers, are the fight against tuberculosis, said Dr. S. H. Rubin of Tufts medical school, in an address last night.

"Our success in dealing with this disease," he said, "may be attributed to a modified mode of living, the great revolution of the social condition of the people, as is evidenced by more comfort, by cleanliness, better food and cleaner habits. Fewer cases are now seen in the hospitals, and the early cases are detected in the incipient stage and provided with suitable treatment."

THE PRICE OF MILK.

Chicago, April 22.—Milk companies in this city announce they will not raise the price of milk as the result of a farmers' strike, which forces the companies to pay them higher prices.

The Chicago Journal intimates that popular opinion will force down the companies if they raised prices. This paper says: "The companies can buy milk for 3.33 cents per quart—which is what producers ask—sell it for 8 cents a quart and make a profit. If they can't, the milk distributing business of this city is sadly in need of an efficiency expert."

BOOKBINDERS REUNITED.

Toronto, Ontario, April 22.—Members of a so-called national bookbinders' union have joined the bona fide organization, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. A division has existed for nearly 10 years, but these workers have agreed that the American Federation of Labor, the United States and Canada into two national camps is wrong. Prominent members of this office have assisted in smoothing out all differences.

INCREASES FOR ICE HANDLERS.

Peoria, Ill., April 22.—The Ice Handlers' union has secured a two years' union shop agreement. Wages are increased $1 per week. The agreement is a contract provides that two hours are taken off at the regular time and paid for at the rate of 40 cents an hour. This makes the wage increase $1 a week for those working nine hours a day, a 50 cent increase for the other seven months.

WHEELING PLUMBERS STRIKE.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 22.—Union plumbers are striking because their employers insist that wages shall be paid by the hour instead of the day or half day. Plumbers work irregular hours, so that when they call for plumbers and then find they are not ready to work at the time agreed upon they refuse to go the time is actually employed.

SYRACUSE MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Syracuse, N. Y., April 22.—A refusal by automobile gear-making plants to better working conditions has resulted in a strike of several thousand machinists.

INDUSTRIAL PUBLICITY FAVORED BY SENATE; WORK OF COMMISSION IS ORDERED PRINTED

Washington, April 22.—By a yea and nay vote the senate, last Monday ordered printed 100,000 copies of the report and 10,000 copies of the testimony taken by the recent commission on industrial relations.

The resolution now goes to the house for concurrence, as the resolution passed by that body provided that the report alone be printed.

Before the final vote in the senate, Senator Hoke Smith, who had previously blocked consideration of the resolution, notified his colleagues that "I will oppose the motion, but I will not endeavor to prevent the senate voting on it." The Georgia lawmaker insisted that the expenditure of $90,000 to print the testimony was a waste of money and that the printed volumes would be "speedily thrown out as junk after being received."

Several senators differed with this statement and declared that not only workers, but libraries and universities, have asked for copies of the testimony, which was secured at a cost of nearly half a million dollars.

There was no opposition to printing the report of the commission. This consists of final recommendations by the various groups of the commission. The testimony of witnesses who appeared before the commission, however, tells its own story. It lays bare mining conditions in Colorado; of the southern tenant farmer and cotton mill worker; of the textile operative in the east and south; of the migratory worker in the west, and in a graphic manner shows present-day industrial conditions in every section of the country.

This feature of the commission's work is evidently distasteful to the element that fears publicity, and which has raised the cry of "economy" in an effort to suppress the first attempt of the government to secure information relative to our economic life.

A majority of the senators, however, did not believe this information should be buried after spending such a vast sum to secure it and they insisted that the testimony of all witnesses be published. It is estimated that about a dozen volumes of 500 pages each and the report will consist of one volume of the same number of pages. It is intended that each senator and congressman be allotted a public document distribution and the superintendent of documents will be authorized to print additional copies, according to the law governing the sale of public documents.

WHY HE IS NOT ALARMED.

Springfield, Mass., April 21.—According to the Springfield Republican, Dr. Bela Sekely, secretary of the National Liberal Immigration league, is quite sure that immigration will not be large after the European war. Rather does Dr. Sekely aver that while the number of aliens arriving will be small, they will be "of good quality."

The opinion of Dr. Sekely, however, loses weight when it is recalled that President Gompers made public, in January of last year, documents which showed that the National Liberal Immigration league was financed by the shipping, coal, steel and mining corporations and other employers of cheap labor.

In its appeal for financial aid, the league stated that it is "in a position to the "influx of alien unskilled labor," and if contributions are not received "we will not be able to do much work."

Under the circumstances, it is not expected that Dr. Sekely would agree with trade unionists and others that there is a necessity for immigration restriction, as provided in the Burnett bill.

BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

San Antonio, Tex., April 21.—The three unions of brewery workers have secured contracts with breweries in this city. Wages are increased $2.25 a week making this rate $20 for a week of six days, eight hours per day. Drivers' wages are $3 per week and hours are reduced from nine to eight. The brewery workers have had improved working conditions are agreed to. These include a week's vacation with full pay on Labor day and the first of May, and four weeks' vacation with pay annually. Employes who work seven days a week are granted a two-weeks' annual vacation with pay.

Springfield, Mass., April 22.—The Springfield Breweries company has signed a contract with the Brewery Workers' union of this city, Holyoke and Chicopee. Wage increases averaging 10 per cent and improved working conditions are agreed to.

BETHLEHEM STEEL PLEADS.

Washington, April 22.—In large advertisements published in local newspapers, and addressed "To the Members of Congress," the Bethlehem Steel company pleads that the government should not destroy private armor-making plants. The rate of sinkings on the part of Secretary Josephus Daniels is one of the principal arguments set forth in the advertisements. The advertisements are signed by Charles M. Schwab and they assure congressmen that three armor plants in this country came into existence to serve the United States government, and for that purpose alone."

TO STUDY HEALTH INSURANCE.

Albany, N. Y., April 22.—The state senate has passed the Mills bill creating a commission to investigate health insurance for workingmen and to report proposed legislation to the 1917 legislature. The commission shall consist of two senators, two assemblymen and four other members, one of whom shall be chairman. It carries an appropriation of $15,000. This bill supplants a health insurance measure introduced by Senator Mills, and which was favored by the so-called American association for Labor Legislation. This was opposed by President Gompers and the New York State Federation of Labor because of its mandatory features which would control the lives of workers. The senate has decreed that this question has not been given proper consideration.

PAINTERS INCREASE WAGES.

Erie, Pa., April 22.—The Painters and Decorators' union has won its strike and raised wages from 37½ to 42½ cents an hour. The eight-hour day is to be suspended work the first of the month less than a score are now unemployed.

PLUMBERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

Alliance, Ohio, April 22.—Employing plumbers have settled wage differences with the Plumbers' union. The old rate of $4.25 a day has been replaced by the following schedule: First year, $4.60; second year, $4.85; third year, $5.

MEAT CUTTERS JOIN UNION.

Peoria, Ill., April 22.—The Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's union is organizing the packing houses. This local union has secured a charter and the packing houses are now organized.

ADVANCES BY CARPENTERS.

Indianapolis, Ind., April 22.—General Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters announces the following recent wage increases:

Athens, Ohio—From 42 to 50 cents an hour.

Bellaire, Ohio—For year ending April 1, 1917, $4 per day; for year following, $4.25.

Elkins, Pa.—From 45 to 50 cents an hour.

Titusville, Pa.—From 37½ to 40 cents an hour.

Warwick, Conn.—From 43 to 45 cents an hour.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—For year ending April 1, 1917, $4 per day; for year following, $4.25.

Williamsport, Pa.—From 45 to 50 cents an hour.

Worcester, Mass.—From 45 to 50 cents an hour.

Streator, Ill.—From 45 to 50 cents an hour.

Beardstown, Ill.—45 cents and nine hours from April 1, 1916; 47½ cents and eight hours following year.

Port Chester, N. Y.—From $4.25 to $4.50 a day.

Ottumwa, Iowa—From 45 to 50 cents an hour.

Mt. Pleasant, Pa.—From 35 to 40 cents an hour.

New Castle, Pa.—For year ending April 1, 1917, $4 per day; for year following, $4.25.

Wallace, Idaho—From $5 to $5.50 a day.

Sheridan, Wyo.—From 40 to 45 cents an hour.

Grove City, Pa.—From $3.75 to 50 cents an hour.

"UNSKILLED" WORKERS WIN.

New York, April 22.—Tunnel workers employed on New York city's $200,000,000 "Catskill" water supply system won a victory over the General Contractors' association after a two weeks' strike that involved 10,000 employes.

These workers belong to the so-called "unskilled" class and the agreement members of the Tunnel and Subway Contractors' International union, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor.

Wage rates agreed to are: Laborers, $3 a day; timbermen, $3.75; timbermen's helpers, $3.50; concrete machine runners, except wherein the engineers have jurisdiction, $2.50; wooden concrete form makers, $2.75. An eight-hour day is agreed to and the interested union shall have the same privileges on the work as representatives of organizations.

WAGE GAINS WITHOUT STRIKE.

Urbana, Ill., April 22.—The following gains have been made by locals affiliated to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters (Champaign and Urbana) without strike:

Sheet Metal Workers' union has raised wages from 40 to 45 cents an hour and reduced the work day from nine to eight hours.

Local Carpenters' union has increased rates from 40 to 45 cents an hour.

Painters' union has signed an agreement for increased wages for the present year from 35 to 42½ cents an hour; 45 cents for 1917 and 47½ cents for 1918. A year ago this organization had but 30 members. An active organization campaign resulted in 200 new members being added, responsible for raising wages 12½ cents an hour during the next three years.

SCANDAL FAST, TRUTH SLOW.

Madison, Wis., April 22.—Scandal travels 1,000 yards a second, according to Prof. Benjamin Snow of the University of Wisconsin, who has published calculations on observations around the university, but which might be applied to other towns.

Flattery has the second greatest speed, according to the professor, traveling from 600 to 800 yards per second. Truth alone, however, he declared, was slowest of all, moving only about 2½ yards per second. The speed of computation was found on the speed of the sound of an alarm clock, which is zero.

AIDING NON-UNION STRIKERS.

Philadelphia, April 22.—United Hatters' unions are aiding strikers at the non-union Stetson plant, which has boasted of its welfare plans. The Stetson company donates stock to these workers, and occasionally gives them presents. Now that they are on strike, however, no higher wages was made by some of these workers and their spokesman was discharged.

SIGN BAKERS' CONTRACT.

Sioux City, Iowa, April 22.—Every bakery in this city but one has signed the scale submitted by the Bakers' and Confectionery Workers' union, which was organized last February. Wages are increased from $11 to $12 a week. Improved working conditions are agreed to, which means a more sanitary product.

SIGN WITH LONGSHOREME